

# Melvin G. Rogers Park

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*Park Guide*

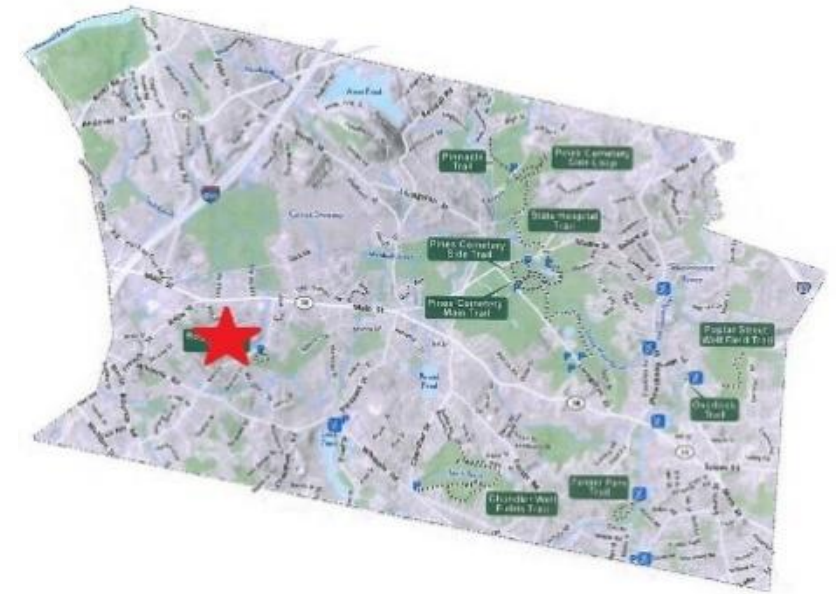
*Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee*

*2022*



# Park Facts

Location	Southwest Tewksbury, bordered by Rogers and Marston Streets
Parking & Access	<p><u>Main Entrance</u>: Parking for 6+ cars at the kiosk on Rogers Street between Kennedy Road and McNeil Way. Use GPS coordinates: <a href="#">42°36'48.0"N 71°15'21.1"W</a></p> <p><u>Additional Entrance</u>: Enter by foot from Rogers Street onto the trail across from Kennedy Road</p>
Size	27.5 Acres
Terrain	Easy; forest paths with moderate inclines
Total Trail Length	Approximately 2 miles Trail Map <a href="#">Here</a>
Features	Hiking trails, relaxation bench, glacial boulders, pollinator garden, <a href="#">geocache</a> , letterbox



# Park History

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The land was deeded to the town in 1959 from the original homestead of Melvin Rogers with the condition that the “premises be forever used only as park and playground and only for outdoor activities”. Melvin Rogers was a descendent of Timothy Rogers, the fifth homesteader in the town of Tewksbury. Rogers built his home in 1744 on land deeded to his family in 1656, well before Tewksbury was established as a town. Tewksbury was incorporated in 1734 from parts of what was called Billericay, encompassing Lowell, Billerica and surrounding towns. Rogers Park is a permanently protected open space and conservation area owned by the town.

Two parcels of land which border Rogers Park have since been added to town conservation land: the McNeil-Walsh Open Space and land from Squire Estates. Currently, there are no trails on these parcels.



# Trail Description

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From the kiosk on Rogers Street what you will first notice is the open path stretching straight back from the parking lot and over the small hill in front of you – this is the gas pipeline right-of-way which forms part of the trails system at Rogers. To the right is a forested area where you can start your walk. A pathway leads up a small incline and onto the system of paths that lets you explore this part of Rogers Park. Along the peaceful forest paths, you will find a bench to relax on and several outcroppings of rocks which are glacial erratics – rocks transported by glaciers and left behind when the glaciers melted.





Just beyond a particularly large rock outcropping, you'll see a sign for a Pollinator Garden. These gardens have been planted around town as a joint cooperation between the Open Space & Recreation Committee and the Tewksbury and Massachusetts Cultural Councils. The gardens are planted with species that attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds to encourage pollination and offset the negative effects of the loss of pollinator habitats, chemical misuse and the spread of invasive species.







Follow the path as it winds back towards the gas pipeline and you will find a path on the left which will take you to the southern portion of Rogers Park. Look for the Conservation Land markers to find the path which leads you to the clearing and under the impressive looking high-power lines. Continue along and look for a couple of short trails on the left that lead into the forested area and some wetlands. Rogers park has approximately 2 miles of walking trails to explore over its 27+ acres.



# Plant Life

On the forest floor among the pine trees, keep your eyes open for the many plant species that are native to the Tewksbury area and thrive in Rogers Park. Below are pictures taken in Rogers Park during early spring of some of the more prevalent plants. Click on each link to go to the Wikipedia page for species you'd like to learn more about.

Can you spot these plants as you walk along the trails?

*From top, left to right: American Wintergreen, Violets, Skunk Cabbage, Canada Mayflower, Mitchella, Princess Pine. Click the images for more information!*





# Animal Life

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Tewksbury's open spaces are home to many different species of birds and animals, and many have been spotted within Rogers Park. Of course, most are elusive and avoid people so you may not see them on your walk. Some of the animals spotted at Rogers Park include deer, raccoons, chipmunks, coyotes, foxes and wood frogs. Birds at Rogers include goldfinch, black-and-white warbler, yellowthroat, screech owl, gray catbird, woodpecker, turkey and red-tailed hawk.

*From top, left to right: Pileated woodpecker, doe and fawn, turkey, raccoon*





# Get Out and See Tewksbury Open Spaces

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Tewksbury open spaces are an important resource for our residents. We encourage you to use them! Please take any trash out with you. If you see something that requires attention, please contact the Town Manager's office: 978-640-4300.

*Right: Spotted Wintergreen*

